

looking good

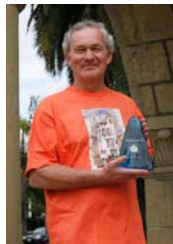


santa barbara

Meet our 2008 Spirit of Service Award Recipients



ROGER EARLS (Outstanding Neighbor—Recycling) - Although retired, Roger Earls continues to educate Peabody students through his volunteer work and a fantastic composting program. As part of the program, Roger works with students daily to collect foodscrap generated by the school cafeteria in preparation of feeding 50,000 worms that ultimately turn the scraps into fertilizer. The fertilizer is then used in garden plots used by students to grow food, which is sometimes sold back to the school cafeteria. Through Roger's volunteerism, composting has become an exciting life lesson on reducing waste for local students.



NEIL ABLITT (Outstanding Neighbor—Litter & Graffiti Abatement) - When building his home near a public alleyway, Neil Ablitt went above and beyond his building requirements to improve a public space and make it a cleaner and safer for residents, business owners and tourists. Neil's improvements included trimming back overgrown trees, adding much needed lighting, paving the alleyway, and adding a decorative cobblestone walkway and iron fence. Neil has worked with Allied Waste on trash problems in the alley, and as a member of the Adopt-A-Block program, he continues upkeep by removing graffiti and picking up trash on an ongoing basis.



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS/HOTEL VIRGINIA (Outstanding Business—Recycling) The Holiday Inn Express is a perfect example of how a business, with absolutely no recycling infrastructure, can fully implement a recycling program and see major results. After taking advantage of the City's Recycle at Work program, hotel employees were shocked to find out that 151 bags of trash PER WEEK, that they used to put in the trash can is now being recycled. The staff at Holiday Inn Express showed that with enthusiasm and commitment to set up the logistics of a program and train staff that they could generate a cost savings, while at the same time be a green business. (Kay Morter and Sylvia Manzo pictured.)



FORCE FIN, BOB EVANS (Outstanding Business—Graffiti & Litter Abatement) - Bob Evans owns Force Fin, a company closely bordered by the freeway, labor line and homeless shelter, where graffiti and litter are prevalent. In this industrial part of town not frequented by residents or tourists, it would be easy to ignore blight, but Bob has made it his mission to keep the area clean by picking-up litter and removing graffiti in the surrounding area. When the job is too big, Bob will work closely with City staff to make sure things are taken care of. Bob's dedication to treating this corner of Santa Barbara like his home epitomizes the spirit of service.



HARDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Outstanding School Environmental Program) Harding school exemplifies the motivation by staff to implement a waste reduction program that teaches students life-long lessons and habits. The school has taken three main steps in making change. First, they installed outdoor trash & recycling cans. Second, they introduced indoor recycling containers into all of their classrooms and break rooms. Last, but certainly not least, they are the first school in Santa Barbara County to implement a Foodscrap Recycling Program. Foodscrap generated from the school's cafeteria are collected daily and composted. The school continues growth of the program as it moves towards collecting all leftovers and lunch trays from over 500 students daily to increase the amount composted. (Sally Kingston & Vince Semonsen pictured.)



LEE KNODEL (Outstanding Educator) Lee Knodel leads through example in teaching her students the importance of organization, hard work and community service. For the last five years, Lee's classes have been involved in LGSB's clean-up programs. She oversees the students in their organization of paperwork and attends every clean-up with her students ready to work HARD. Lee puts on her yellow work vest and treats every neighborhood like her own. The respect students have for Lee is apparent in their actions to emulate her in taking the job seriously, working hard and having fun while cleaning up local neighborhoods. Countless numbers of streets in Santa Barbara are cleaner due to Lee and her students.

Continued



KAREN MARTINEZ (Outstanding Student—Recycling) - Karen is part of the Virtual Enterprise class at Santa Barbara High School that runs a real life business—the Don's Net Café. Karen proposed to her peers that they start collecting cans and bottles from classrooms to help raise funds for their business. She diligently led other students in starting a recycling fundraising program by putting flyers in the teacher's lounges and talking to teachers to see if their classes would participate. Every Friday, Karen and a group of students collect recyclables from throughout school and take them to various recycling centers for cash. Karen was nominated by her fellow students for being a role model to them and encouraging them to learn about the environmental and monetary benefits of recycling.



AMELIA BAKER & LIZ ELIZALDE (Outstanding Student—Litter Abatement) - Amelia and Liz are co-presidents of the Santa Barbara High School Green Club. Working entirely on their own, these two students have organized numerous clean-ups and enlisted the help of over forty peers for both beach and creek clean-ups. They have also coordinated habitat restorations and invasive plant removal projects. On the work that Amelia and Liz have done, one teacher commented, "it is amazing to see kids organizing kids". (Liz pictured left and Amelia on right.)



OFFICER JOHN KATTAI (Outstanding Police Officer—Litter Abatement) - Over the last two years, Officer John Kattai has shown his continued commitment to creating a cleaner and safer Santa Barbara by working closely with Streets Division staff in staying on top of the problems typically associated with illegal encampments; problems that include littering, illegal dumping and unlawful activity. Once he has handled matters from a law enforcement perspective, John is known to assist fellow employees with any work necessary, including trash and vegetation removal, to make sure the job gets done. Officer Kattai's efforts have also been key in creating valuable relationships with Union Pacific and Caltrans staff resulting in joint clean-ups near the railroad corridor and freeway.



JAMES RUSSELL (Outstanding Public Employee—Graffiti & Litter Abatement) - James Russell, Streets Division Maintenance Supervisor, was selected for his role in implementing numerous multi-agency clean-ups of the Union Pacific railroad corridor that runs 5.9 miles within the city limits. January 2008 marked the ninth monthly work party managed by James. To date, 250 cubic yards of mulch have been chipped from trimmed trees/shrubs; 68 cubic yards of trash have been hauled; hundreds of hypodermic needles have been collected and well over 25,000 square feet of graffiti have been painted out. The monthly clean-ups continue to be a success thanks to James.